

### Remarks

This amendment cancels pending claims 48, 49, and 57-66. Only claims 40-44, which have been allowed, remain in the application. Applicants therefore look forward to a speedy allowance of this application.

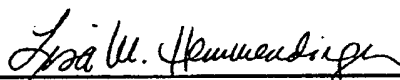
### Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants have not received initialed copies of the Forms-1449 filed together with this application. Copies of the forms and the date-stamped postcard indicating their receipt are included. Applicants respectfully request that initialed copies of these forms be returned with the next action.

Respectfully submitted,  
BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Date: February 3, 2004

By:

  
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